



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

MAY 6 2003

Office of the Chairman

Mr. Samuel G. Bonasso
Acting Administrator
Research and Special Programs Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Bonasso:

Thank you for the January 6, 2003, response to the National Transportation Safety Board regarding Safety Recommendations H-02-23 through -25, stated below. These recommendations were issued to the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) as a result of an accident south of Ramona, Oklahoma, on May 1, 2001, involving a truck that went out of control and overturned; the truck had horizontally mounted cylinders filled with compressed gas.

H-02-23

Modify 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* 173.301 to clearly require that valves, piping, and fittings for cylinders that are horizontally mounted and used to transport hazardous materials are protected from multidirectional forces that are likely to occur during accidents, including rollovers.

H-02-24

Require that cylinders that transport hazardous materials and are horizontally mounted on a semitrailer be protected from impact with the roadway or terrain to reduce the likelihood of their being fractured and ejected during a rollover accident.

H-02-25

Revise the information about hydrogen in the North American Emergency Response Guidebook so that it specifically identifies the unique chemical and flammability properties of hydrogen.

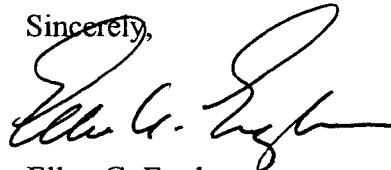
The Safety Board notes that RSPA agrees with the intent of these recommendations. The Board also notes that RSPA met with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) in an effort to consult and cooperate with these organizations in addressing the recommendations. The Board recognizes that as a result of these



meetings, the CGA has established a special task force under their Docket 02-19, "Development of Performance Standards for Tube Trailers," and the FMCSA is considering an appropriate expansion of its enforcement program to include tube-trailer manufacturers and assemblers.

RSPA indicates that it views the work required to address Safety Recommendations H-02-23 through -25 as a multi-year effort, culminating in rulemaking, and that it is committed to continuing its consultation and cooperation with the FMCSA and the CGA to fully satisfy these safety recommendations. The Safety Board commends RSPA for its dedication to improving the safety of horizontally mounted tube cylinders that transport hazardous materials. Pending notice that this task has been completed, Safety Recommendations H-02-23 through -25 are classified "Open—Acceptable Response."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen G. Engleman", written over a horizontal line.

Ellen G. Engleman
Chairman

cc: Ms. Linda Lawson, Safety and Health Team Leader
Office of Transportation Policy Development